

Remarks

Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice.

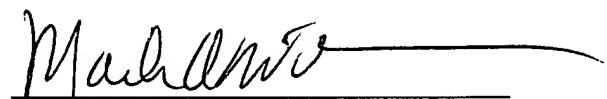
Claims 1-12 were allowed and have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

Claims 13 and 14 were withdrawn from consideration as allegedly being directed to a non-elected invention. This constructive election by original presentation was discussed with the Examiner and her supervisor in a telephonic interview on October 14, 2003. During that interview, Applicant's undersigned representative presented reasons for withdrawing the constructive election. The Examiner was not persuaded by the arguments. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of the constructive election and merely to expedite allowance, Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled herein with prejudice or disclaimer. Only allowed Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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